



GLOBAL TECH ADVOCATES FESTIVAL IN CHINA 2019

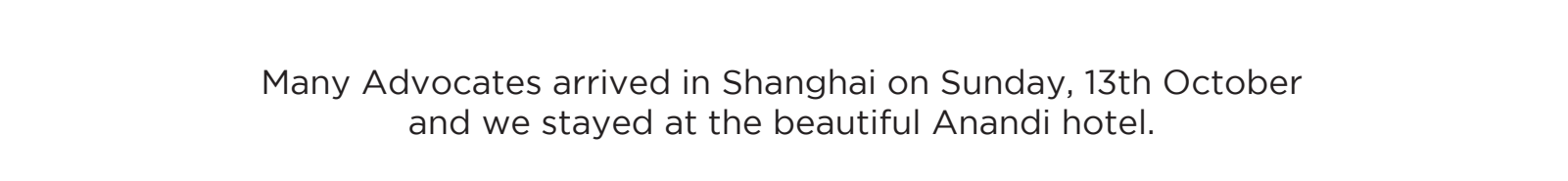
- A recap of a very special week of events and activities in Shanghai, Beijing and Jiaxing
- Global Tech Advocates launched its new website during the week
- A Summit report of the event on 15th October was produced
- Extensive media coverage both in and outside China
- Many thanks to CENTI Group, Seven Hills and the 50+ Advocates who participated during the week and thanks to HP for their support of GTA

HELLO ADVOCATES,

Global Tech Advocates held it's first ever Festival in China the week of 14th of October. Over the course of the week, a delegation of more than 50 Advocates from around the world attended all or various parts of a week of events designed to introduce Global Tech Advocates to China's tech hubs as well as to introduce Chinese entrepreneurs, investors and officials to tech leaders from around the world.

The week was organised by CENTI Group (China-Europe Networks of Technology and Innovation); CENTI is the Global Tech Advocates Founding Partner in China and leads the Tech Shanghai Advocates and Tech Shenzhen Advocates groups. The co-organiser for the week was Seven Hills representing Global Tech Advocates and Tech London Advocates.

This was the first time organising an event of this scale, and I am grateful to CENTI, Seven Hills and the many Advocates who attended the event. It was an amazing week, and I am writing to share with you what we did, who attended and some of the key learnings and takeaways along with the media coverage received both in and outside China. I will finish with some thank you messages and how we plan to move forward into 2020.



THE AGENDA

Many Advocates arrived in Shanghai on Sunday, 13th October and we stayed at the beautiful Anandi hotel.

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER

The delegation travelled to the Zhangjiang High Tech Park, which is the largest innovation zone in China. There we visited Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility (SSRF), the Zhangjiang International Innovation Port and the Zhangjiang Artificial Intelligence Island. In the afternoon we travelled to Jingji, a very successful company which focuses on E-sports, where we experienced their training programmes and did some very fun race car simulation training.

TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER

We hosted the first ever Global Tech Advocates Summit, which was moderated by the brilliant Oli Barrett (who comperes all the Tech London Advocates events); during the course of the day we had over 30 speakers and panellists from both China and the various GTA groups around the world to speak on various themes. Highlights were keynotes from Matthew Phelan from the Happiness Index, Femi Owolade-Coombes from the Tech London Advocates 25 Under 25 and Hacker Femo (and our youngest Advocate at age 13) and Carola Wahl, Advisor to the Innogy Innovation Hub.

At the event, we launched our new Global Tech Advocates website, Coresight Research prepared a report of key discussion points and themes from the event, and CENTI Group prepared a short video of the group. Click below to find out more:

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)
[VIEW REPORT](#)
[VIEW VIDEO](#)

At the end of the event, CENTI Group hosted a dinner at the Anandi Hotel. The team from the National Eastern Tech Transfer Center in Shanghai were also actively involved with the event and securing support from the Shanghai Science & Technology Committee.

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

The delegation travelled to Beijing, either by plane or by high-speed train and we stayed at the NUO Hotel in Chaoyang District. In the afternoon, we attended a meeting with Xinchuang Technology (part of Xinyuan Group), a NYSE-listed property group moving some of its core businesses into the technology space; both the Chairman and the President of the Xinchuang Technology welcomed the delegation and then hosted a welcome dinner at their club in Chaoyang District.

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER

In the morning the delegation visited the Zhongguancun (ZGC) Science Park in Chaoyang District; this Z-Park is one of 16 such innovation parks across Beijing which include a very large number of high tech businesses, housing units, schools and hospitals to create technology communities; we learned that each one of Beijing's 16 districts has one of these Z-Parks - Chaoyang is focused on international companies as many global businesses have their headquarters in Chaoyang (and many embassies are in Chaoyang District).

In the afternoon, we travelled to the Shuncheng Prince Palace and Gardens (which were spectacular) to participate in the Sino-European Entrepreneur Summit; Oli again compered the GTA session and Femi did his keynote; a closing panel discussion featured Debu Purkayastha from 3rdEye, Teresa Martin from Mavens & Tech Spain Advocates, Anders Nilsson from Tech Italy Advocates and Carola Wahl from Innogy Innovation hub, all to provide European insights to the audience. Most of the GTA delegation then flew back to Shanghai.

FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER

The delegation travelled to Jiaxing, a city about one hour from Shanghai to participate in an event with the City of Jiaxing; Oli again hosted part of the event and well done to Jack Davies who explained Global Tech Advocates to the attendees; the group visited some historic tourist attractions and then attended the Jiashan International Investment and Trade Forum. After travelling back from Jiaxing, the teams from CENTI and Seven Hills enjoyed a celebratory evening at The Bund.

Separately, I stayed in Beijing as I was invited to deliver a keynote address at the Zhongguancun (ZGC) Forum at the Z-Park complex in Haidian District; my keynote was all about the rise of the London Fintech Ecosystem; the event was attended by national and regional leaders in both government and business; my thanks to London & Partners for arranging for me to do this and have the opportunity to introduce GTA and Tech London Advocates to a distinguished audience.



THE ATTENDEES

What made the week special were the many Advocates who attended all or part of the week's activities; I want to thank and recognise them here, and I hope you will reach out to them to learn more and hear about their experiences:

Tech London Advocates Advisory Board:
Oli Barrett and **Debu Purkayastha**

Tech London Advocates 25 Under 25:
Femi Owolade-Coombes and his mother **Grace** who joined us

Tech London Advocates:
Matthew Phelan from the Happiness Index,
Hussein Kanji from Hoxton Ventures, **Mahdi Shariff** from Guanxi.AI (who also made numerous Advocate introductions during the week), **Maxim Parr** and **Jordan Monnet** from nr2, **Echo Gong** from Coresight Research

Tech Spain Advocates & Mavens:
Teresa Martin and **Silvia Elias**

Tech Scotland Advocates:
Anders Nilsson and **Marco Nosedo** (from Cariplo Factory)

Tech Ireland Advocates:
John McLaren-Stewart from Venture Risks Group (and co-lead of the new TLA Insurtech Group)

Tech Japan Advocates:
Tadashi Tamura and **Skip Riddle** from Riddle International (and co-lead of TLA Healthtech)

Tech Singapore Advocates:
Ting Yan Leck and **Shaun Hon** from TRIVE VC along with advisor **Leslie Sarma**

Tech Mexico Advocates:
Carlos Monroy, **Orlando Monroy** and **Juan Carlos Feito**

Innogy Innovation Hub:
Carola Wahl, Advisor

Invest Hong Kong:
Joyce Chan, Head of StartmeupHK

Tech Shanghai Advocates & Tech Shenzhen Advocates: represented by **John Zai**, **Wendy Zhao**, **Joyce Chen**, **Elson Zhou** and **Ritchie Lee**

InformaTech Shanghai Tech who provided information about London Tech Week 2020

Jack Davies, **Lewis Bendall-Craft** and **Caroline Cooper** from Seven Hills.

Also attending and participating were Advocates representing a number of Government, City and NGO bodies including:

Tony Clemson:
British Vice Consul General - Shanghai

Koen Vandecaveye:
London & Partners and co-lead of TLA China group

Anthony Meyer:
Department for International Trade (DIT)

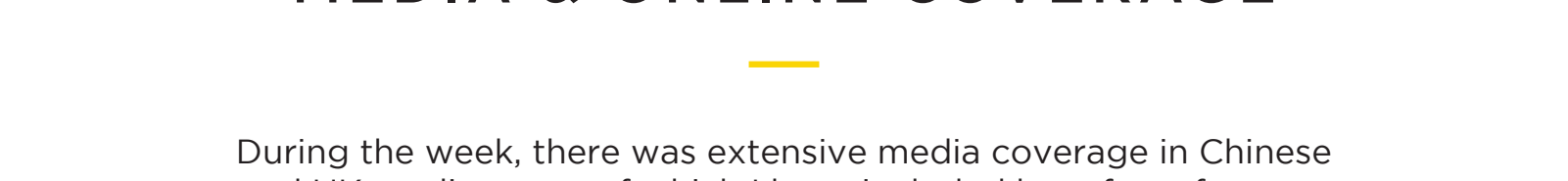
Genevieve Ng:
Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)

Feifei Ding:
Government of Ontario

Xue Ying Dong Wu:
Trade Officer - Economic and Commercial Office, Government of Spain

Weifeng Ma:
China-Britain Business Council

During the week, I also added over 25 new Global Tech Advocates to TLA and connected them to other GTA groups.



MEDIA & ONLINE COVERAGE

During the week, there was extensive media coverage in Chinese and UK media, some of which I have included here for reference:

FORBES
COVERAGE

CHINA DAILY
COVERAGE

COMPUTER WEEKLY
COVERAGE

I also did interviews with China Daily, South China Morning Post, Channel News Asia. In the UK, City AM and Computer Weekly have covered the week and New Statesman is planning a news and opinion piece. There will be more op eds and thought leadership pieces, and many of the Advocates have prepared their own blog and vlogs. Check out Matthew Phelan's here:

[VIEW BLOG](#)



MY THANKS

A massive thank you to the team at **CENTI**, led by **John Zai**, who did an outstanding job organising the summits, events and activities, and who kindly paid for meals and coach transfers throughout the week. Their hospitality was incredible. A special thank you to **Wendy Zhao** and **Joyce Chen** for their efforts over the previous months in the run-up to the events.

A very big thank you to **Oli Barrett**, who hosted three events throughout the week and was his usual spectacular self. This was the first time that Oli did events beyond Tech London Advocates, and I know he will be back for more.

Another very big thank you to the team at **Seven Hills** led by **Jack Davies** and supported by **Lewis Bendall-Craft** and **Caroline Cooper**. A special note to Caroline who did a fantastic job on logistics and keeping track of everyone's movements during the week (and not to mention coordination of visas before the trip).

Many thanks to **HP** for their support and sponsorship of GTA.



WHAT'S NEXT

Sleep and recovery is the name of the game as we had very little throughout the week! After that, we will plan to do something like this again in 2020.

John and the team at CENTI are eager to host another GTA event in China in 2020 with a focus on other cities - given their hospitality and organisation, once we have this in place, then it would be great to have you mark your diaries.

CENTI, who is the GTA partner for China, is also planning to work on two more launches in China in 2020: Tech Beijing Advocates and Tech Chengdu Advocates.

Other GTA groups expressed an interest in hosting something similar in 2020. There will not be a shortage of GTA events next year.

Tech Mexico Advocates, who joined the delegation, along with Tech Canada Advocates, are up and running, and both are planning formal launches in 2020.

And now back to London: In November, you will receive a 'hold the date' message for our next event in early February. With a London Mayoral election coming in May 2020, I have been working on Debatetech 2.0, building on the first Debatetech we hosted in 2016 at Here East. Centre for London and techUK are lined up as fellow partners for Debatetech 2.0, and we will soon work on another tech manifesto to give to the London Mayoral candidates to help them prepare.

So, watch this space for another TLA event at Here East.

By many measures, our first Global Tech Advocates Festival was a great success, and I look forward to making this a regular part of the GTA activities.

Regards,
Russ

Russ Shaw

Founder, Tech London Advocates
& Global Tech Advocates



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